



**Montgomery County, MD
Commission on People with Disabilities
Meeting Summary Minutes
January 12th, 2011**

Welcome and Approval of December Meeting Summary Minutes:

Trish Gallalee, Chair, convened the meeting. Charlie Crawford, Vice-Chair, motioned for the December Meeting Summary Minutes to be approved. Cindy Buddington, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the December Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Chair and Vice Chair Report:

Charlie Crawford, Vice Chair, has been in contact with Carolyn Biggins, Chief, Division of Transit Services, Department of Transportation, regarding safety and accessibility for individuals who are blind to include Ride On bus stops and accessible pedestrian signals. In October, he sent her an e-mail on behalf of the American Council of the Blind of Maryland to draw her attention to issues that individuals who are blind encounter. Charlie will continue his discussions with Carolyn and will report back to the Commission on any updates.

Trish Gallalee, Chair, reported that she will be attending additional Health & Human Services budget meetings in the coming months. She will bring forward the issues the Commission has discussed and will report back to the Commission regarding these meetings.

Discussion of Goals and Organization of Work:

The Commission discussed and finalized the goals for 2011. **See Attachment A** – "Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities (CPWD) 2011 Goals" for the finalized version.

The Housing goal was amended. Budget and any needed support services will be included as part of all the goals. Mark Maxin, Commissioner, motioned for the goal to be approved with the amendment. Paul Meyer, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the goal was approved with the amendments. The Employment goal was amended to include those agencies that the County contracts with as part of the promoting. Charlie Crawford motioned for the goal to be approved with the amendments. Jackie Simon, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the goal was approved with the amendments. Reasonable accommodations will be added as a sub-goal. The Transportation goal was amended. Trish Gallalee motioned for the goal to be approved with the amendments. Mark Maxin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the goal was approved with the amendments.

Commissioners were asked to join one of the three workgroups. **See Attachment B** for workgroup structure. Trish discussed the role and purpose of a work group or task force. The Commission will rely on these groups to make informed decisions. According to by-laws, the chair appoints the workgroup leader. If interested, please contact her. Initiatives that are created by these groups must be brought before the Commission to be voted on before going forward. Formal workgroup and task force meetings must adhere to the Open Meetings Act, which states that the public must be provided with adequate notice of the time and location of these meetings.

It was proposed that the Steering Committee start time be moved to 6:00 p.m. so that work groups could meet beforehand from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The proposal was tabled for the time being as there was not sufficient interest from Commissioners to meet at this time.

It was reiterated that the Steering Committee is responsible for planning and directing the activities of the Commission and for overseeing the activities of the workgroups and task forces. The Steering Committee can

also act on the Commission's behalf if a situation requires such urgency and has a deadline prior to the next full Commission meeting.

2011 Goal Updates:

Seth Morgan, Commissioner, made a motion to write a letter to County Executive Leggett asking him to permit a meeting between the Commission and Tom Manger, Chief of Police, to discuss the issue of disabled parking enforcement efforts that should be started in Montgomery County. Paul Meyer, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. Susan Hartung, Commissioner, suggested that the revenue generated by the fines be used for disability services provided by the County.

Mark Maxin, Commissioner, gave an update on employment and Bill 46-09 Hiring Preference for Persons with Disabilities that was passed in May, 2010. As of yet, no individuals have been hired under this preference.

Irving Shapiro, Commissioner, made a motion for the Commission to write a letter to County Executive Leggett to pursue the issue of group home multiple inspections. Charlie Crawford, Vice Chair, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Jackie Simon, Commissioner, suggested that the Commission write a letter to County Executive Leggett asking for his support regarding the use of the Maryland Medicaid stimulus funds. Maryland is one of the states that has not been compliant in using this stimulus money. This issue has been tabled until the next meeting so that a more thorough discussion can be had.

Roundtable: Cindy Ostrowski, Commissioner, will take over John Miers' role as liaison to the Mental Health Advisory Committee.

Mark Maxin, Commissioner, noted that Office of Management and Budget has issued a final round of new regulations through the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under the new Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act. The regulations will be finalized within the next 30 days. Mark would like to speak at a future Commission meeting to apprise Commissioners about these updates.

Action Item Review: None.

Announcements: Charlie Crawford, Vice Chair, recently attended the Top Dog conference in Florida where he heard writer Kathy Nimmer give a talk. Charlie recommended her book "Two Plus Four Equals One: Celebrating the Partnership of People with Disabilities and Their Assistance Dogs", which is a collection of stories about service animals, the individuals they work with, and the bond between the them.

Community Speaks: None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, February 9th, 2011 – Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD – Lobby Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, February 16th, 2011 - 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD - 1st Floor Tan Conference Room, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Carly Clem, Office Services Coordinator
Betsy Luecking, Disability Policy Specialist

Over-arching goal: Note that any goal that involves legislation will require a motion and vote by entire commission. Any budget or support services will be included under every goal.

To address the needs of County residents with disabilities by partnering with the disability community and County agencies responsible for designated programs to identify and prioritize needs, develop effective budget advocacy, formulate strategic means of addressing those needs, monitor the progress of those prioritized strategies, in areas such as, but not limited to; 1) Housing, 2) Employment, and 3) Transportation.

1. Housing

Promote policies and programs that provide access to housing for people with disabilities. Develop, support and promote full inclusion of people with disabilities as they seek access to all housing opportunities in Montgomery County. This will include, but not be limited to:

- A) Ensure that housing organizations provide community education and referral for people with disabilities who are in danger of foreclosure or other crisis situations.
- B) Advocate for an amendment to the Montgomery County ordinance to require certain aspects of universal design in all new single family homes.
- C) Advocate for housing renovation and rehabilitation funds.
- D) Partner with the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission and Inter-Agency Fair Housing workgroup to research all issues related to fair housing and homelessness for people with disabilities.

2. Employment

Increase employment of people with disabilities by promoting opportunities for the employment, training, placement, retention and advancement of individuals with a broad range of disabilities within the County Government and its contractors. This will include, but not be limited to:

- A) Partner with the Office of Human Resources to implement the legislation to increase the representation of people with disabilities at all levels of government through the hiring preference and other programs.
- B) Monitor and be an advocate for customized internship employment opportunities and Quest Internship program.
- C) Provide funding support for workforce development training programs/initiatives focused on people with disabilities.
- D) Partner with employers, community organizations, etc to communicate, advocate, (maybe even provide workshops focused on dispelling myths, etc.) and support the state on "Think Beyond the Label", etc. We need to develop a strong voice and platform to support this initiative.
- E) Better understand the statistics on the numbers of people in Montgomery with Disabilities and hiring rates.

3. Transportation

Promote all publicly funded transportation to be safe, accessible, affordable and reliable for persons with disabilities. This will include, but not be limited to:

- A) Work with all relevant parties to insure that MetroAccess Paratransit service is available, reliable, on-time, affordable, and transparent in its policies and communications to users, and
- B) Encourage the development of a comprehensive and uniform standard of affording disability parking and insuring that those who take advantage of such affordance are in fact qualified to do so,
- C) Partner with the County transportation officials and disabled users of public transportation to insure compliance with all applicable standards of operations and performance under the Americans with disabilities Act,
- D) Advocate for a pedestrian infrastructure that is accessible, safe, and maintained.

Attachment B

Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Goal/Issue Assignments
2010-2011 – Adopted January 12, 2011
January 14, 2011

Trish Gallalee, Chair
Charlie Crawford, Vice Chair

Work Group/Task Force

The purpose of work groups or a task force is to address issues that require discussion and research. The Commission will rely on these groups to make informed decisions. Activities of a work group or task force:

1. Research and develop potential solutions or a position of the Commission on an issue.
2. Provide monthly updates to the Commission on projects.
3. Present potential solutions or position to the Commission.
4. Draft letters, speaker notes, and other correspondence.
5. Represent the Commission at meetings, hearings, etc.
6. Meet outside of Commission monthly meetings.

A work group or task force may be formed as follows:

1. Commission determines that a work group or task force is necessary and asks for volunteers.
2. A Commissioner or group of Commissioners request to form a work group or task force and the Commission agrees.
3. An issue is brought to the commission from the community or government and the Commission decides to form a work group or task force and requests volunteers to participate.

Liaisons to Other Groups

Commission on Health – Seth Morgan

HHS Advisory Leadership Council – Trish Gallalee and Charlie Crawford

In-Home Aide Services Advisory Committee – Cindy Buddington

Mental Health Advisory Committee – Cindy Ostrowski

Commission on Aging – John Miers

COG Human Services Transportation – Paul Meyer and Charlie Crawford

Library Services – Marcie Povitsky

MD Alliance of Disability Commissions and Committees - Daphne Pallozzi

Housing

Irving Shapiro, Cindy Buddington, Isabel Torres-Davis, Jackie Simon, Catherine Mello, Marcie Povitsky, Lu Merrick, Steve Riley, Jenn Wolfsheimer, Harry Eisenberg, Susan Smith, Tim Markwood

Employment

Mark Maxin, Susan Hartung, Megan Larson, Betsy Jett, Francie Gilman, Kim Alfonso, Daphne Pallozzi, Darlene Taper, Sheila Langston

Transportation:

Charlie Crawford – Lead worker, Paul Meyer, Ed Kenny, Seth Morgan